

admission that any such patent, publication or other information referred to therein is material or considered to be material (37 CFR 1.97(h)), or even qualifies as "prior art" under 35 U.S.C. § 102 with respect to this invention, unless specifically designated by Applicants as such.

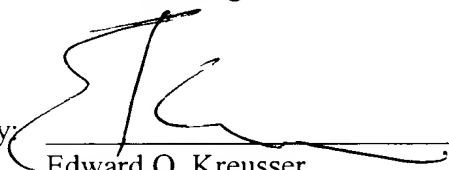
The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information, as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, exists.

This Information Disclosure Statement is believed to be timely in that it is being submitted under 37 CFR 1.97(b)(3) before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, no petition or fee is required. If, however, counsel for Applicants is in error in this regard, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) to counsel's Deposit Account No. **50-1273**.

Respectfully submitted,

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